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WHA Press Guidance (DRAFT)
April 18, 2002

RELEASED IN FULL

VENEZUELA: SPECIAL SESSION OF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Q: Facts on Special Session of OAS General Assembly today? Who will represent the U.S.?

A: THE 29TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT OAS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON TODAY, APRIL 18TH, AND IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 4:00 P.M.

THE SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IS BEING CALLED TO CONSIDER THE REPORT BY THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE "SITUATION IN VENEZUELA."

THE UNITED STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS OTTO J. REICH.

WE HAVE URGED THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT FULLY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) SECRETARY GENERAL'S FACT-FINDING MISSION TO

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VENEZUELA, AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING HIS
REPORT. THROUGH ITS GOOD OFFICES, THE OAS CAN PLAY
AN IMPORTANT ROLE BY SUPPORTING A BROAD AND
INCLUSIVE NATIONAL DIALOGUE THAT PROMOTES
RECONCILIATION AND STRENGTHENING THE ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA.

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